



Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

July 10, 2015



4 PLANE PULL CHALLENGE TEAMS ARE ALREADY ON THE RUNWAY! Eager to show their supremacy this year, **Miami, Pendleton, Plainfield** and the **Dream Team from Madison** have already registered to compete in this year's competition! Rumor has it that at least two of these teams feel that this year they have a lock on at least 2nd if not 1st place! Let the trash talking begin! I guess we'll find out on

Saturday, August 29th. Think differently? Then register your team [here](#)!

WVCF E-SQUAD RALLIES TO ASSIST A RESIDENT IN NEED! This week some members of the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Emergency Squad took on a Helping Hands Mission! E-Squad members, on their own time, volunteered at the Breckenridge Commons Assisted Living Facility (Sullivan, Indiana) to help a damsel in distress! Resident Mary Loudermilk wanted to move from one apartment to another, to be closer to the nurses' station. Mary has no family living nearby to help and could not afford to hire a mover. Once E-Squad Field Commander Jonathon Hendrickson of Sullivan heard about her dilemma he and his band of volunteers did the heavy lifting. WVCF Operations Assistant Superintendent Frank Littlejohn said, "Awesome job guys! It is great to see the team volunteer on something like this!" Superintendent Richard Brown added, "This was a very nice gesture and I am proud of you guys!!!!" The moving crew said they got in a good workout but more importantly gave someone in need some peace of mind.



5 BRANCHVILLE EMPLOYEES GO 'BEAST MODE' IN 2 QUARTER: The Branchville Employee Appreciation Support Team (BEAST) is proud to announce Branchville Correctional Facility's Employees of the Quarter. They are: Supervisor of the Quarter: Mr. Tommy Overstreet. Mr. Overstreet is a Correctional Sergeant. He began his career at Branchville in 2011. Contractual Employee of the Quarter: Mrs. Laura James. Non-Custody Employee of the Quarter: Mrs. Annette Terry. Custody Employee of the Quarter: Mr. Richard Beard. Volunteer of the Quarter: Brother Zachary Wilberding. Each winner was presented a certificate and special designated parking during the quarter. Superintendent Alvey stated, "The BEAST committee invited all of the award winners to a luncheon to celebrate their recognition. We have so many great staff and it is a wonderful way of letting them know that their hard work and dedication are noticed and appreciated."




PUTNAMVILLE HOSTS IMPD/IDOC/INDY MENTORS 'IMPACT'

MEETING: 15 soon to be released offenders attended this highly successful meeting attended by Chief Rick Hite along with several other IMPD officers along with Drew Adams, Parole District 3 Supervisor. "We acknowledge that most of our offenders will be released back into society at a future time, so being part of this initiative to curb the return of those offenders and support a successful re-entry is essential," says PCF Superintendent Brian Smith. The offenders involved in this meeting were all from areas of Indianapolis known for high recidivism rates and recurring violence. The offenders were given resources to assist them in retaining employment, family programming, and housing, as well as had their first meeting with parole to set up re-entry plans.



ROCKVILLE OFFENDERS LEARN CONSTRUCTION FUNDAMENTALS: The Building Maintenance program instructed by Don Kuk of Oakland City University, goals include the obvious business of teaching carpentry, the basics of plumbing, electrical and framing. However the offenders also learn collaboration, teamwork, pride in their work and job responsibility. Once the offenders complete the 350 hour program which includes 10 hours of OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) training, they could earn 90 days of earned credit time. The Building Maintenance projects are creating such a buzz with RCF staff that many requests have been made for more mailboxes and the participants will soon begin assisting with facility improvement woodworking projects that will likely be used to raise money for various community organizations.

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IDOC EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT



It was her personal motto "Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding and He shall direct thy path" that led April 'The Smile' Bonomo from the tiny hamlet of Gnaw Bone, IN, nestled in the beautiful hills of Brown County, to Rockville Correctional Facility our most westest (a new word I just made up) facility.

Although she knew nothing of correction, this mother of two and grandmother of 3, was very interested in the Administrative Assistant IV Librarian position and despite those who thought she wouldn't make it, here she is eight years later she still standing, sorting and cataloguing. That might be the reason why getting her 5-year service pin at the Employee Appreciation Recognition Breakfast was her most memorable day on the job. Take that all you Haters! (*My comment not hers*).

As we strolled the yard I asked April what she likes most about her job.

"Three things," she replied as she waved to an approaching offender then counted them off on her hand. "One, working with the Rockville staff. Two the service we provide to the offenders and three, the opportunity to work with books." I know some folks who can't even identify one good thing about their job.

As we enter the library I asked if she could ask the Commissioner one question what would it be. Her reply? 'Could you find a way to convey staff appreciation and acknowledgement of their dedication?' Not necessarily monetary, but rather with sincere affirming words and a verbal "pat on the back"? "Those things can go a long way."

As I watched her catalogue a stack of gently used paperback books I asked her about the position. "It's very interesting. I love books and it was close to home. What else is there to know" She replied with one of her patented smiles. "Besides," she added. "I'm their favorite Librarian."

"But," I asked innocently, "aren't you the *only* Librarian here?" From behind me I hear the loud sound of scuffling chairs from behind me and turned to face six pairs of glaring eyes.

"She's STILL our favorite," barked one offender a hair above 5', who had jostled her way to the front of the pack. Her eyes never left mine. I tried unsuccessfully to scramble behind April, not because I was scared – but she was crowding my personal space. Yeah, yeah that's it – she was crowding my space.

April turned up her dazzling smile to high beams as she gently positioned herself directly in front of me. "That's okay ladies he didn't mean anything thing by it." I watched as her smile caused the group's anger to dissolve like sugar cubes dropped in a glass of water.

As a parting shot one of them muttered. "He'd better not!"

After my heart rate was back under 100, I realized now why she's known for her consistent positive attitude and 'The Smile.' When she's not at work April likes to spend time with her grandbabies or shopping and vacationing with her friends. She says that in five years she hopes to be right where she is now. "I'm on the backside of my vocational life and I have no plans to go anywhere else other than RCF. It's fun and fulfilling calling and I'm blessed to serve." April's advice to someone considering a career with IDOC was simple. "Do it! While it can be stressful and challenging it is always interesting and everyone has the opportunity to make a difference." **HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND EVERYONE!**



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